

addition *Todopsis wallacei* has a single long one over each nostril, *Eupetes leucostictus* has two fine ones and a possible small third one over each nostril, *Chenorhamphus grayi* has two long projecting bristles and a third that curves downward arising over the nostrils, and most of the other babblers considered here appear to have none other than at the gape.

6. *Plumage*. The body plumage of *Ifrita* is soft and dense, especially in the region of the lower back, and, in the skins at least, appears as a thick layer covering the base of the tail. This is not apparent in *Niltava* species, but is present in similar fashion in *Eupetes* species. It is absent in the Malurinae, but here the dorsal feathering is specialised and the amount of feathering on the lower rump may be associated with the tendency to carry the tail cocked high.

CONCLUSIONS

In its plumage pattern and colour *Ifrita kowaldi* shows some similarities to *Todopsis wallacei*, and to a lesser extent to *Malurus coronatus* and *Eupetes leucostictus*. These similarities are more fundamental than the superficial resemblance of the blue crown and warm buff body colour of *Niltava*.

In its short tail, short curved wings, long and strong legs and feet, unfeathered nostrils, and dense plumage, *Ifrita* shows a resemblance to the babbler species with which it has been compared, and differs in these respects from *Niltava* species. The evidence of the bill and rictal bristles is inconclusive.

The possession of a distinctive, patterned plumage in both sexes and in subadult birds, such as *Ifrita* possesses, is more typical of babblers than of flycatchers. It is a pity that the juvenile plumage of *Ifrita* is not known, since this might be partly diagnostic.

There would appear to be no reason, on the basis of the characters at present available, to suggest that *Ifrita kowaldi* is a flycatcher, and certainly none to justify making it congeneric with *Niltava*. In view of some of the similarities discussed here its ultimate taxonomic placing might depend on a reviser's opinions concerning the affinities of the Malurinae (*sensu stricta*).

References:

- Desfayes, M. 1967. What is *Ifrita*? *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 87: 37-8.
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Campethera abingoni (Smith), 1836, and its type-locality

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Writing in the *Bull. B.O.C.*, vol. lxxxv, 4, 1965, pp. 64, 65, I showed that the type-locality Durban, Natal, for nominate *Campethera abingoni* (Smith), 1836, was wrong. This was based on the original range data given by Smith in his *Rep. Exped. Expl. Centr. Afr.*, 1836, 53, where it is clearly

stated he (Smith) took the paratypical material in the same locality as the previously described species, namely, *Campethera bennettii* (Smith), 1836: Kurrichaine, i.e. Zeerust, western Transvaal. This finding resulted in the sinking of *C. a. smithii* (Malherbe), 1845: Marico R. western Transvaal, into the synonymy of nominate *C. abingoni*, with its type-locality adjusted to Kurrichaine, i.e., Zeerust, western Transvaal, and the introduction of *C. a. constricta* Clancey, 1965: Gillitts, near Kloof, Natal, for the Natal and Zululand populations. White, *Bull. B.O.C.*, vol. lxxxvii, 4, 1967, p.61, contests the accuracy of my interpretation of the case, arguing that in his view the words (as given by Smith in the original range citation) are ambiguous and need not have a geographical connotation at all. This is not so. There is no ambiguity in the statement by Smith that his *Chrysoptilus Abingoni* occurs alongside his *Chrysoptilus Bennettii*. Furthermore, this situation does not obtain at Port Natal, i.e., Durban, Natal, the putative but erroneous type-locality of *C. a. abingoni*, because in Natal south of the Tugela R. only the Golden-tailed Woodpecker *C. abingoni* is present. *C. bennettii* penetrates into the north of Zululand, reaching south only to about the Umfolozi R. From this it will be appreciated that Smith's statement on the distribution of *C. a. abingoni* cannot apply to Natal, as he could not have collected Golden-tailed and Bennett's Woodpeckers together in this region.

The mistaken belief that the type-locality of nominate *C. abingoni* should be Durban, Natal, and not Zeerust, western Transvaal, probably dates back to Malherbe, writing in 1845. Nowadays the so-called first reviser principle is seen as a panacea for many nomenclatural ills, but a person is only a first reviser when he has two or more sets of circumstances or two or more names, enumerates these in print and after due argument selects one set of circumstances or one name in preference to the other(s). The mere unquestioning use of a type-locality or name, or what have you, does not single out a person as a first reviser, and to be a first reviser one must adjudicate between two or more issues and decide in favour of one. For those who wish to invoke the first reviser principle to resolve (to their satisfaction) the present question, it would appear from a critical study of pertinent literature on *C. abingoni* that I acted as the first reviser when I published my 1965 note.

Should the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature be petitioned to effect a ruling on this issue, they will not be called upon to resolve a nomenclatural tangle but to give validity to the erroneous reading of basic information by authors operating subsequent to the publication of the pivotal name by Smith in 1836. One may ask if the International Commission would not be exceeding its function and powers if it endeavoured to validate Durban, Natal, as the type-locality of *C. a. abingoni*.

A congenital abnormality in the bill of a Red-throated Diver

by BRYAN L. SAGE

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On 29th January, 1967, on the Westwood Marshes, Walberswick, Suffolk, I caught a Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellatus* (Pontoppidan) that exhibited an interesting bill deformity.